

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-06 EA-06 /038 W  
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R 181841Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8667  
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09986

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: FR VS PFOR  
SUBJECT: VIETNAM: FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES'  
STATEMENT TO CODEL ROSENTHAL

1. SUMMARY: WHEN CODEL ROSENTHAL ARRIVED AT FOREIGN  
MINISTRY APRIL 28 FOR NOON MEETING AND LUNCHEON WITH  
STATE SECRETARY DESTREMAU, THEY WERE SURPRISED TO FIND  
FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WAITING FOR THEM. ONE OF  
HIS AIDES TOLD EMBOFF THAT SAUVAGNARGUES HAD DELAYED HIS  
DEPARTURE IN ORDER TO MAKE STATEMENTON VIETNAM TO CODEL.  
STATEMENT SAID THAT GOF ONLY TRYING TO BE HELPFUL IN

CALLING FOR THIEU'S RESIGNATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SAUVAGNARGUES TOLD CODEL THAT FRANCE AND OTHER  
EC-9 PARTNERS HAD REFUSED WASHINGTON'S REQUEST TO CON-  
DEMN HANOI FOR VIOLATING PARIS AGREEMENTS BECAUSE SUCH  
A STEP WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC AT THIS TIME.  
OF COURSE, HANOI HAD VIOLATED THE AGREEMENTS BY SENDING  
NEW DIVISIONS INTO THE SOUTH, BUT SAIGON GOVERNMENT HAD  
ALSO VIOLATED THE ACCORDS BY REFUSING TO ENGAGE IN THE  
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED BY THOSE AGREEMENTS,  
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SAUVAGNARGUES CONTINUED. IN SHORT, FOREIGN MINISTER

SAID IT IS A FALLACY TO BELIEVE THAT MILITARY SITUATION CAN BE STABILIZED AT THIS TIME. WHAT GOF IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH BY CALLING FOR THIEU'S DEPARTURE IS TO HELP SET THE FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSITION TO INEVITABLE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER THAT WOULD CAUSE THE SMALLEST LOSS OF LIFE. GOF AND EUROPEANS UNDERSTAND WHY THE UNITED STATES CANNOT DEMAND THAT THIEU RESIGN, BUT THIS DEMAND COMING FROM FRANCE AND OTHERS SHOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE UNITED STATES IN CONCLUDING THIS EPISODE. GOF CALLED FOR THIEU'S DEPARTURE OUT OF DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE UNITED STATES, AND NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE U.S.

3. CODEL ASKED SAUVAGNARGUES WHY GISCARD DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND NATO SUMMIT MAY 29. SAUVAGNARGUES SAID GOF UNDERSTANDS UNDERLYING REASON FOR UPGRADING NATO SPRING MINISTERIAL TO SUMMIT. THERE IS DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT U.S. MAINTAINS STRENGTH AND WILL TO UPHOLD ITS COMMITMENTS DESPITE VIETNAM. SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THERE IS NO NEED TO DO THIS BECAUSE NOBODY EVER DOUBTED U.S. WILL TO UPHOLD COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE. AS MATTER OF FACT, WITH VIETNAM EPISODE FINISHED, U.S. WILL BE STRONGER THAN EVER. WHAT HAPPENS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID, DOES NOT AFFECT THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. IN ADDITION, GOF SEES NO REAL UTILITY IN NATO SUMMIT AT THIS TIME. IF THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO COMMUNIQUE, AND NO PROBLEMS SOLVED BY SUCH A MEETING, GENERAL PUBLIC WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.

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